

This is the second newsletter (number 1 appeared in April). Lack of time stops me from producing a more professional job.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Steven Berry and son Richard joined at the end of last season. Both collect GB. Steven has just started teaching but hopes to come along regularly. Bob Wheadon from Pontypool is now a regular. His interests are 'anything' but he is spending a lot of time with his 'Machins'. Glen Philips comes along with his mum Lyn. Glen is our third junior member. Alan and Lori Morrison who collect GB and Russia came along to our last meeting. They live in Pontypool and have arranged a few stamp fairs there. Andrew Jefferies is now back in the fold. With a daughter born in the Summer we hope that he has time to come to meetings.

FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

The next Convention is to be held on 31 March 1990 at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea. Please remember that our competition night is 21 February and the best entries will go forward. At the Llanelli Convention earlier this year we did extremely well with 2 silver and 3 bronze medals which included a first and second in the Thematic Class (my entry on Finland and Russia and Vic Sheppard's Russian Aviation). The Convention in 1991 is in NEWPORT provisionally booked for 20 April 1991 at St Julian's Comprehensive. Remember that we have our first planning meeting on 7 February 1990.

OTHER FEDERATION NEWS

This year's AGM was held on 28 October in Port Talbot. It was most eventful with trees crashing down round us because of the gales blowing outside. There were several adjournments to allow us to move our cars to safer parts of the car park.

A special presentation was made by George Gibson (Chairman of the BPF Melville Competition) to Ralph and Nancy Wornum. This was the BPF award of merit for outstanding services to philately. In addition, Brian Cripps presented Nancy with an Owl painting to add to her already large collection and Ralph with a stockbook.

Not much news to report otherwise. The bank balance of the Federation is very healthy mainly because they did not do anything this year. Carmarthen Autumn Day was a success with around 100 paying to come in. Llanelli made a profit of £216 on this year's Convention, mostly due to the dealers who paid £430. Other income was £48 from advertising space, £72 from the raffle and £76 from the programmes (304 sold). The commemorative cards raised £16.70 which on my reckoning means that only 167 exist. If you have one hang onto it. The silent auction was very disappointing (once again). A point to note for future conventions. Brian Cripps offered a apology to all whose entries were not displayed. This was due to a lack of display boards!! The Host Society were presented by the Post Office with a plaque with a set of Welsh Bible stamps embedded. Apparently this was one of only five produced at a cost of £100 each.

The youth officer (John Beechey) reported on his first season. Two lectures had been given in Mid-Glamorgan libraries. A youth fund has been set up with £123 donated (including £10 from Newport). Some trophies had also been donated. Out of this 10 stock books had been bought and given away as prizes at a cost of £27.72 and ten trophies had been bought. The balance stands at £46.63. In future the youth funds will appear in the Federation accounts.

The junior table at the Llanelli Convention had been a great success. For the

future, Norman Boscott and John Beechey would be visiting schools and societies.

No change to the Federation officers to report.

AOB included a discussion on badges. Firm orders had been placed by members for 80 but as yet there are no badges. The cost quoted was £65 + VAT for the die plus £65 + VAT for the first 100. Even then we could not have a red dragon. Does anyone know anywhere cheaper?

Also the Committee has been asked to look again at displaying and judging seminars and at nominating judges to BPF.

BPF CONGRESS 1991

Wales will host the BPF Congress for the first time in 1991. The dates are 19-22 September. The venue is Dyffryn House near Cardiff. Dyffryn House has accommodation for up to 150 which is small by BPF standards and means that the Congress will be oversubscribed. It will also be difficult for local society members to attend on a 'day' basis. The only hope is in the specialist society meetings in the evenings. Most people attend as couples with visits being arranged for spouses to counter-act the boredom. Thoughts are a valleys tour, St Fagans and shopping in Cardiff.

Meetings will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday. Saturday will see the AGM, the signing of the roll (literally a roll of parchment) and the banquet.

Most of the work will be done by the BPF but there are jobs for local societies: local treasurer (Norman Clowes of Cardiff); minibus driver; getting advertisers; badges (from a supplier in Bristol); manning the office during the Congress; invitations and information packs for participants; seating plan for banquet; Congress date stamp; and souvenirs. Vic Sheppard has produced some interesting preliminary designs for the date-stamp.

EXHIBITING AND DISPLAYING

I attended the one-day workshop on this subject organised by the Hereford Society on 23 September. The location was the impressive modern Moat House Hotel on the out-skirts of Hereford. The morning was bright and sunny and with nothing on the roads I arrived early to find George (Commander) Gibson drinking coffee. Geraint Jones and Lesley Hampton soon turned up together with around 20 Hereford members. Lesley is the chairperson of the BPF awards committee and a member of the Melville Committee, George is Chairman of the Melville Committee and Geraint has many senior BPF jobs.

Lesley Kicked off with the presentation of stamp displays. A few useful tips:

1. Try using light-coloured paper or card for displaying stamps instead of boring white album leaves.
2. Try double mounting of stamps, possibly on coloured card. This makes them look better and easier move to other displays.
3. Red draws the eye, so try putting red stamps near the centre top of a sheet.
4. In general philately classes, marks are given for inclusion of covers, provided they have the correct stamps at the correct rate.
5. Use plain album leaves.

George demonstrated how (and how not to) give displays at local society meetings. He started with a story about two sailors in the King's Cross district of Sydney (which I might retell after a few pints!). Most of the talk was light-hearted but he did get his points over very well. Again a few tips:

1. Don't display specialised material to Society members - even George would find it difficult to make the penny red varieties of the George V Australia

interesting for more than 15 seconds.

2. Display on boards - don't pass sheets round as it will kill a display stone dead.

3. Display sheets down the boards -

1	3	5	...
2	4	6	...

4. Take too little material - 120 sheets is enough for an evening.

5. Don't talk too much, don't mumble and don't speak with your back to the audience.

Geraint is an expert on postal history. In this subject what you display and what you enter for competitions are completely different. You must exclude all ephemera from competitive exhibits. A few useful tips:

1. Postal history displays should now have an introduction (as for thematics).

2. A Good competitive display will have a theme, a beginning and an ending.

3. There should never be any duplication of material in competition.

4. There is now an international scale for judging rarity, the 'Dvorak Scarcity Scale', in which R1= 1 copy known, R2= 2 to 10 etc.

5. A study of postmarks is not true postal history. There is now a separate class for this material called macrophilately.

NEWPORT PHILATELIC BUREAU

The rumour is that the Bureau is closing early in 1990. This story of a visit one Saturday morning may explain why. The scene : the Bureau is actually open (a rare event!) and there is a long queue for the main Post Office counters. (quite usual!).

Conversation 1:

Customer: Have you any first day envelopes?

PB: No

Customer: Are you sure?

PB: Hang on we might have some under the counter .. ah yes we have a few

Customer: Thanks I'll have one

PB: I can't sell you one. They are part of our stock. We need extra covers in case our others get damaged. Can you come in during the week?

Customer: You mean you've got some but you can't sell them?

PB: You can ask for a standing order.

Customer: But I only want one cover.

PB: Sorry.

Conversation 2

Customer: Have you got the undenominated 1st and 2nd class booklets?

PB: I'll check ... sorry we only have the 2nd class booklets.

Conversation 3

Customer: Can I have 12 1st class stamps?

PB: Yes .. that will be £2.28

NEWPORT LIBRARY

The lending library in John Frost Square has a small selection of mostly old books on stamps and Stanley Gibbons catalogues. A visit to the third floor reference library is however a voyage of discovery. Stamps are under the number '383' (not 391!). There are two sections; one at the far left-hand side, the other to the right by the windows. There are a large number of new books and catalogues so pay them a visit.

Members should also be aware that the Society has a small library run by Ivor Bennett. You should have a copy of the book list produced by Ivor in the Summer. He is very keen that members borrow the books.

RECENT MEETINGS

During the Summer we borrowed some slides from the British Thematic Association when we met at Gwen Hussey's house. All who were there found them very interesting and got a few ideas on how to exhibit their thematics. Bridgend Society visited us in October. Thirty people were present including the visitors. The evening gave us a chance to try out our new display boards. The highlight from my point of view was a display of USA by Richard Buckland. We also saw a humorous look at EDUCATION and stamps by Norman Boscott, Australian postmarks by Jennifer Beechey and errors in stamp designs by John Beechey.

In October we also visited Cardiff. The team was as usual myself, Martyn Britton, Gwen Hussey and Margaret Harding. Gwen kicked off with flower postcards, Martyn followed with a display of Newport postmarks which he has just written up, I showed some engravings of Czeslaw Slania and Gwen finished with German inflation period.

Fifteen members and guests joined Cardiff for the trip to Autumn Stampex.

EXTRA MEETINGS

I have booked the following extra dates for 1990. All start at 7.15 pm in room 147 at the Civic Centre Newport as usual:

- 30 May 1990 - Displaying and exhibiting
- 13 Jun 1990 - Ladies night
- 27 Jun 1990 - Newport postal history
- 5 Sep 1990 - ???

STAMP FAIRS

- 25 November 1989 - NNN Fair at Two Rivers Hotel Chepstow
- 2 December - Ann Scott postcards Bristol
- 3 December - Symes Fair Bristol
- 9 December - Symes Fair Bath

SPECIALIST SOCIETIES

A while ago I asked members to list their specialist societies. So far I have had only one response, from Bill Osborn (Philatelic Music Circle and United Nations Study Group). I am a member of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society.

SHOULD WE JOIN THE BPF?

This would put up membership fees by about 75p a year. There are a number of benefits for the Society and members including copies of 'Stamp Mail'.

NEWPORT PHILATELY

Although I don't collect it myself, I have become interested in the postal history of Newport through seeing Martyn Britton's material. I have also been trying to get hold of decent cancellations from Newport for my mail. There is a special hand-stamp from the Philatelic Bureau, although that will probably disappear when the Bureau closes. There is also a circular date-stamp for the Mill Street post office. I have set aside the meeting on 27 June for discussion of Newport postal history. It would be a good idea to include something on the subject in future newsletters. Any information you have would be gratefully received.

PS

That's all that I have space for this time....

John Perry
Secretary
3 November 1989